

Mobile Office Hours Scheduled for Assistance with Application

Washington, DC – On Thursday, Harry Teague hosted a conference call with leaders of New Mexico veterans groups to help reach out to local veterans and spread the word about the available retroactive pay that is available to soldiers whose service in Iraq or Afghanistan was involuntarily extended, or Stop Lossed. Teague spoke with the New Mexico Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion to discuss the **October 21st application deadline** and how to best get eligible veterans their compensation.

“The dedication these troops showed by continuing to serve their country is admirable and I think it’s our job to make sure that they are fairly compensated for the extra time they spent bravely serving our country overseas,” said Harry Teague, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. “Unfortunately, more than 100,000 people have not yet claimed the money that is owed to them and their families. For one reason or another, the news about these benefits is not getting out and I’m determined to work to ensure that every eligible veteran applies for their benefits.”

In addition to the conference call, Harry Teague’s office has scheduled upcoming [Mobile Office Hours](#) where staff will be available to answer questions about the Stop Loss benefits and help eligible veterans with their applications. For a full schedule of regular Mobile Office Hours, please [click here](#) or call 1-888-9-TEAGUE (832483).

As a result of the “Stop Loss” policy enacted after September 11, 2001, hundreds of thousands of service men and women had their tours of duty involuntarily extended to ensure that troop levels were high enough to successfully combat terrorism. The Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay is available to service members of every military branch who had their enlistment extended or retirement suspended due to Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible service members will receive \$500 for every month they were kept on active duty past their discharge date. While Congress established this payment in the 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act, supported by Teague, over 100,000 eligible active and retired service members have not applied for their benefits.

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